



Outreach at MSU

Liz Allen of Richton, left, talks with BSU members Les Herring of Brandon and Bev Petty of Atlanta near Covard Student Union on the Mississippi State University campus. BSUs served snow cones and cold sodas at welcome booths across the MSU campus to incoming students, and contacted over

700 students during the first two weeks of school. BSU director Ken Watkins said the actual number of students encountered could be over 1,000. (Starkville Daily News photo by Terry Coleman)

Graham polishes the Big Apple

GATHERING OF A QUARTER MILLION
IS EVANGELIST'S LARGEST NORTH AMERICAN AUDIENCE

NEW YORK, N.Y., Sept. 23 — Evangelist Billy Graham spoke to a crowd of 250,000 people at a rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park — his largest North American audience.

This rally was the second largest he has ever held during his 40 years of ministry behind an audience of one million people in Seoul, Korea, in 1984.

"Nothing is to be compared to the love of God," Graham said in his address based on the Bible reference John 3:16. "If there is one thing that I want you to take from the park when you leave here, it is this — God loves you and God is interested in you." Fifth and Madison Avenues between V. Simpson Turner, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and chairman of the rally. "In a city known for racial division and tension, there was total unity. In a city known for crime out of control, the police blotter was empty."

The police confirmed that though this was one of the largest crowds ever gathered in Central Park, there were no arrests and no incidents reported. Despite the heavy traffic and gridlock around the park following the meeting, the typical bumper-to-bumper blaring of horns from harried drivers was absent for many blocks.

According to Turner, this reflects the fact that Graham's message is not only spiritually relevant, but socially relevant. "Just think what this city could be like if everyone honored Christ as Lord," he said. "New York City could be like 'an afternoon in the park.'"

"Our social problems are basically moral and spiritual problems, and moral problems require a religious solution," Graham said. "Some ask, 'Why has God abandoned us?' God has not abandoned us, we have abandoned him."

Graham stated it is no secret that

during the last 30 years in New York, there has been a tragic exodus from the churches into materialism, secularism, and humanism. However, he said he felt there was hope for the city and its people. "I love New York, and God loves New York. He has not given up on the city because he does not give up on people," he said.

The rally was held on a crisp, cool, closing day of summer. The Great Lawn served as the theater and the Manhattan skyline as the backdrop for the meeting which included musical guests Johnny and June Carter Cash, Kathie Lee Gifford, Take 6, Sandi Patti, The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, The Salvation Army Band, and others.

New York City Mayor David Dinkins gave a special welcome to Graham from the platform, calling this gathering the "largest multicultural revival meeting the world has ever seen." The two men met privately in the mayor's office at City Hall when Graham first arrived in New York to discuss the solutions to the massive problems facing the city.

Portions of rally material were printed in 16 languages. Translation of the meeting was provided over commercial radio stations in Korean, Spanish, and three Chinese dialects.

Hundreds of volunteers blitzed the city distributing two million visitation brochures. Fifty teams of street evangelists held meetings throughout the city. On the day of the rally, these volunteers shared their faith with police officers and park workers.

Of the crowd, reporters estimated more than 50% were ethnic. More than half of the 900 churches representing 40 denominations who supported and participated in the rally were ethnic.

Roman Catholic involvement was the largest for any domestic Graham

crusade. Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor of the New York Diocese wrote a letter urging priests and laity to attend the rally. This resulted in the participation of over 200 parishes in the nine-month preparations.

More than 200 registered media representatives were present at the rally, including many foreign television networks and wire services. Coverage included all Metro-New York newspapers and television stations, numerous radio stations, and periodicals such as People and National Geographic.

The city granted unprecedented permission to allow buses to park on Fifth and Madison Avenue between 60th and 90th Streets.

Crusade organizers committed to cover the city's costs for police, park services, and clean-up personnel from a free-will offering taken at the rally. In addition, a generous gift was pledged to the city for several agencies working to aid the homeless and the needy.

Earlier in the week, Graham was honored with a lifetime achievement award in publishing by Capital Cities/ABC which was attended by media personalities and corporate leaders such as Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, Barbara Walters, Diane Sawyer, and Paul Harvey.

In a visit to Harlem earlier in the week, Graham presented the first check of this "Love-in-Action" emphasis totalling \$5,000 to "Mother" Clara Hale of Hale House, a facility for babies born to addicted mothers, many of whom are infected with AIDS.

The Central Park rally, was the culmination of a three-year outreach known as Mission New York State.

In November, Graham will hold his final crusade of the year in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Baptist Record

Thursday, October 3, 1991

Published Since 1877

Reunion of disbanded Santa Rosa planned; trust fund has given \$100,000 to CP

The annual Santa Rosa reunion, the 28th one, will be held Nov. 10 at Santa Rosa "Y," or in case of bad weather, at First Church, Nicholson. Irma K. Frierson, a former member of the Santa Rosa Church, said, "Everyone is invited to come and bring a picnic lunch, for 1 p.m."

The Santa Rosa Baptist Church near Picayune disbanded, due to the coming of NASA to the state; on Sept. 25, 1963. The Santa Rosa Memorial Trust Fund was established with the Baptist Foundation.

The disbanded congregation took the \$42,500 paid for the property by NASA, paid all the church debts, and had a balance of \$36,171.53. A trust fund was set up, with interest each year going to the Cooperative Program through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Income distributed through the Cooperative Program from this fund, Sept. 30, 1963-June 30, 1991, totalled \$100,221.75. Distribution of income through the CP July 1, 1990-June 30, 1991 was \$3,844.99. The principal balance on June 30 of this year was \$45,666.51.

Said Frierson: "The number of lives touched and blessed by this 'eternal stewardship' cannot be measured."

Extend Your Hands...

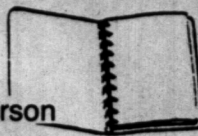


Observe
October as...

Cooperative Program Month

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



The covenant of companionship

In the quietness of Eden, God established the family unit. Today the family is under fire and great stress is upon all human relationships. Changes are taking place so quickly that all of society's structures are shaken. Your action or reaction to all this stress will be determined by your spiritual perceptions.

The high divorce rate is shocking. It disturbs a pastor to realize half the people he marries will desire a divorce in a few years. Moreover, about half of the people who come to the marriage altar have been previously married. Harold Hime, national family services leader, says America has too many divorces because there are too few biblical marriages. He maintains that the basis for marriage is not love but a commitment, and that the kind of love you have when you marry will not sustain a marriage. The church should begin by teaching biblical marriage beginning at age 12, according to Hime, and continue to teach such a lesson every quarter. Wait until counseling time, and it's too late.

Home, church, and school must accept responsibility for teaching children the qualities which will enhance marriage. Good books, excellent video series, and counselors

can be of great value here. Kids don't hear well from about the time he asks her to marry him until about a year after the wedding. Marital know-how in finances (the leading cause of divorce), sharing, human relationships, in-laws, religion, etc., must begin long before she says, "Yes." Once the vase is shattered, about all you can do is pick up the pieces.

A group of young people held a mock wedding, then proceeded to discuss the problems the couple would encounter in the few months after the wedding. The skill of the youth director led them to see the seriousness of a lifetime commitment.

It was not God's intention for married couples to be divorced. Divorce is a statement of failure, and stems from sin. It's not the unpardonable sin, and if ever two people need the loving support of the church, it is in the trying time of divorce. Forgiveness needs to be sought and applied. The affirmation of the people of God is essential. There is scarcely a family in your church which has not been touched by divorce. It's a grievous thing, and a little of us dies each time a family member goes through a divorce. Let it draw the family and the church closer to the Lord and involve us deeper in

ministries.

Varieties of "open" marriages are being advocated in some schools. Television and Hollywood make divorce commonplace and so very acceptable. Youth are told that marriage is a piece of paper — nothing more — and is hardly needed now that we have "come of age." Marriage has outlived its usefulness, and is harmless, but hardly necessary.

Like the rich farmer who built bigger barns, they leave God out of it. The reply of "thou fool" could well be applicable here. God has not changed. His Word remains though heaven and earth pass away. Immorality was not condoned in biblical days, nor is it acceptable in 1991.

Even with all this righteous pontification, we proceed rapidly from "moonlight and roses to daylight and dishes." Some marriages deteriorate to a living hell, and divorce could well be the lesser of two wrongs. This is a plea for more biblical marriages, more training and preparation for our children for marriage. It is also a plea for more support when divorce takes place; for a caring, loving, restorative ministry which would enable a single person, like Ruth, to leave the land of Moab and find joy and contentment in another place.

Guest Opinion . . .

Forced termination

By Farris Smith

The pastor in today's Southern Baptist church has been handed another explosive danger with which he is required to deal. That danger is called forced termination. How frequently it does occur I do not know, but hardly a week goes by that I do not hear of another pastor in Mississippi being asked directly or being forced by pressure to leave the church he is presently pastoring, having no other place to go. If we add to that the number who find another church to pastor before they resign, the number of forced terminations is even more alarming.

To assume that each of these terminations is deserved is difficult to believe. Conversely, to believe that the church is always at fault is, too, rather naive. The point is that this situation is occurring far more often than it should be occurring, and every indication is that the number will increase rather than decrease. This conclusion is not based upon factual data but upon my own personal observation and experience. However, I do believe it to be accurate.

The number of forced terminations should be of concern to every pastor, to every staff person, and every lay person in our churches, as well as to the state convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

No one is interested in assigning blame, but the result of a single termination is so injurious that everyone

suffers distastefully from it. Except in those specific cases where misconduct or immorality is involved, no one ever profits from the preacher being asked to leave. The pastor is never improved by it. His family is never encouraged by it. The church never gains new members because of it. The state convention is never strengthened when it happens, and for our denomination it simply adds to the already distorted view that the public holds of institutionalized churches and preachers.

Before it reaches epidemic proportions, this problem of forced termination needs to be addressed, at the local church level, at the associational level, and at the state level. We are not enhancing the image of our Lord by this most alarming increase of broken covenants between pastor and people. In a time when commitment and perseverance is uncommon among our secular transactions, ought not this "spiritual calling" be more of an example of holy trust and confident faith?

If the Lord is at work in the calling of a man, ought not the Lord also be involved in the "un-calling" of that man? Should not the same meticulous examination be used when terminating a staff member as when calling one? Is not the increase of this kind of action an indictment that neither churches nor pastors are doing the kind of spiritual discernment

in determining God's leadership as needs to be done. No more important decision is made in the local church than when the pastor or other minister is called, and it is difficult to believe that God changes his mind about such an important matter in a period of months or years.

At a time when we are finding it increasingly difficult to give validity to the message we preach, the church needs to have pastors who are secure and confident in their calling to that place of service. Pastors need churches who believe that God has sent them a shepherd to lead and, therefore, are willing to trust their guide. Until we strengthen this covenant between pastor and people, the work of the kingdom will continue to suffer.

Because of the pain and emotional upheaval experienced by everyone involved, both pastor and church membership alike, certainly we need to examine more carefully the dynamics that are set in motion when termination occurs. We must discover some way to overcome our conflicts and allow the "ministry of reconciliation" to have valid demonstration in the body of Christ. Perhaps we don't have the answer now, but the problem is great enough to demand that we make the effort to find the answer and cure the ill.

Farris Smith is pastor of Unity Church, Picayune.

WEDDING WEATHERINGS



A couple's prayer

By Lori Howard

Dear Heavenly Father, together we pray that as a couple you will help us be strong through the weak times, help us be happy through the good times, soft through the hard times, mild through the hot times, but most of all, dear Lord, help us keep you close in our hearts at all times.

As a couple there have been times that we've had to walk away from each other because of anger, dig deeper for the next dime, cry on each

other's shoulder because of pain, but because of you all things change.

We as a couple now would like to say thank you for giving us each other. We promise that for the rest of the years to come no matter how high the hill is to climb, you dear Heavenly Father, will always come first in our lives, together forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Howard is a member of Friendship Church, Brookhaven.

Annual association meeting

In the next 30 days, most of our 75 associations will be involved in their annual meetings. The association is a strong link in the organizational chain and a key entity in supporting the work of the Cooperative Program.

The director of missions and the associational officers are vital in promoting Sunday School, Discipleship, Stewardship, and missions. The association enables churches to engage in activities that may be beyond the capabilities of the individual churches.

Five churches in the Natchez area formed the Mississippi Baptist Association in 1806. This was 11 years before Mississippi became a state. In 1836 the state convention was organized just a few miles north of Natchez in the Washington Church.

You may be requested to serve as a messenger of your church to the association. Historically and spiritually you will be following some illustrious men and women who have served well and helped to make Baptists what we are today. — GH

Looking back

Recently, someone sent us a March 29, 1928 copy of the Baptist Record. It had weathered the Depression and comes out looking better than most of us. I was impressed by the prices of the Toronto Hotel and by the comprehensive news.

— Baptist World Alliance meeting in Toronto, Iroquois Hotel, rates: \$1.75-\$2.50 per day.

— Pastor D. O. Horne writes that Harmon Mullins, cousin of E. Y. Mullins, died and was laid to rest in Fayette Cemetery.

— Auber J. Wilds of the B.Y.P.U. Department writes that Brother Ray of Starkville has a large group of A&M students in the B.Y.P.U. program.

— Pastor L. G. Gates of Laurel reports a good meeting with Dr. George H. Crutcher preaching and F. A. Black leading the singing.

— Mr. A. H. Doty led the singing at the state Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. in Hattiesburg. Lawrence T. Lowery brought the message. H. D. Jordan represented Mississippi College. D. A. McCall brought the closing message and Davis Memorial of Jackson won the banner.

— Stewardship Institute was held in the Clinton Church, Dr. B. H. Lovelace, pastor. There were 156 enrolled, and all but 13 promised to tithe.

There being no further business, move we adjourn! — GH

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Editors meet with Draper at Sunday School Board

By Guy Henderson

James Draper, executive director of the Sunday School Board, expressed his desire to make Southern Baptists feel good about being Southern Baptist, and to make them feel good about the Sunday School Board. In an interview with Baptist state editors, Draper declared his intent to be accessible, available, and to maintain a positive stance.

What will the structure of BSSB be now? "I hope to bring in someone to be the operation officer. Also, I generally favor meetings that will be open to the press."

What is the level of hope with all the political activity, now shifted from the SBC level to the state convention level? "I'm optimistic by nature, and we hope to find a middle ground. Our materials will be for everyone. We will honor the Word. I am concerned about the crisis in state conventions and the designated gift idea is not good for us."

Some trustees mentioned a "hit list" at BSSB. Any concern about your

staff? "No trustee has told me to get rid of anyone. There will be no quick decisions. Mainly, it's how to structure the staff to meet my leadership style. There will be a re-structuring, and I will set up a leadership team. People here feel like God called them here. I feel that way, too."

Are you using Lloyd Elder in his consultant role? "We've not had much contact. I met with him in July, and he has graciously offered to help."

It seems that some churches desire to move away from BSSB literature. Any concern there? "In the past, we had a monopoly. Now there are choices. We must be more versatile and do a better job. The Breakthrough materials are attractive and have been well received. We have a good curriculum, great writers, and our resources are tremendous. I believe Baptists will go for it when they see it. Flexibility is the word."

BSSB unit sales are down .02% — part of a 10-year trend.

Regarding Christian Life Commission, Draper said they need to speak to the family and ethic issues. "We do have a family department at BSSB and we need to cooperate."

Also, it was observed that we have a trend toward preaching and praise to build churches, whereas in the past the Sunday School was our method. Draper voiced doubt about being able to build a lasting church on praise or preaching alone. "I believe in using the Sunday School in growing churches."

The BSSB is one of the larger agencies of the SBC with literature sales more than \$71 million. Church training development, family ministries, student work, church music, church administration, library development, church recreation, church architecture, conference center operation, book stores, Broadman Publishing, and Bible publishing make up the BSSB. There are more than 1,800 employees with the board.

Missionaries, other Americans, flee Zaire

By Craig Bird

KINSHASA, Zaire (BP) — The evacuation of Americans, including hundreds of missionaries, from Kinshasa, Zaire, climaxed a tense week of waiting amid increasing violence.

In the vast areas outside Kinshasa, the capital, Americans who wanted to evacuate have been grouped in central locations awaiting completion of U.S. Embassy plans to get them out of the country.

About 800 Americans left aboard three charter flights Sept. 26-28.

The three groups, one each day, boarded ferries under the protective guns of French paratroopers for a 10-minute ride across the Zaire River to the airport at Brazzaville, Congo.

Life in Kinshasa, increasingly difficult over the past years as pressure for political change mounted while the economy crumbled, became intolerable for many people Sept. 23 and 24.

During those two days, a military protest against unpaid salaries ex-

ploded into a looting frenzy that swept the city's business and industrial area as well as hundred of private homes.

Even when an apparent calm returned to the streets, strongly encouraged by French and Belgium paratroopers and a seemingly mollified army, the U.S. Embassy saw no reason to withdraw its advice that Americans leave the country.

"Obviously we don't know what the

(See ZAIRES on page 5)

Baptist women to observe worldwide Day of Prayer

Washington, DC — Baptist women on every continent will be united in prayer the first Monday in November as they observe the annual Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer.

Sponsored by the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, the prayer program will be observed in nearly all the world's major languages and in many dialects.

"Together in Christ, We Love" is the theme for 1991. The program was prepared by Baptist women in Venezuela and features testimonies on evangelism from women in Latin America, a short Bible study, and prayer requests from Baptist leaders in the six continental unions of the BWA Women's Department.

For several years, women around the world have given an average of \$330,000 to the Day of Prayer offering, with one half that amount sent to the Women's Department for its world ministries. For 1991, officers of the Women's Department have set a goal to double this offering, making a worldwide total of \$660,000, and to double it again in 1992.

BWA Women's Department presi-

dent, Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Alabama, USA, explains that the double offering goal is necessary to maintain the work of the international office and to undertake new projects for leadership development, evangelism among women, and special assistance to new Baptist women's organizations in currency-restricted countries such as Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Observance of a Day of Prayer among Baptist women was first held in Europe, following the second World War, as an effort to heal the wounds left by the war. The movement quickly spread to other continents, and is now a central event among Baptist women in the 156 member bodies of the Baptist World Alliance.

In some parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and islands of the Pacific, women are reported to walk several miles, often over rugged terrain, with some wading small rivers, to get to the appointed place of prayer. In these areas, women are especially faithful to give sacrificially to help others.

Supreme Court decision favors Foreign Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Virginia Supreme Court threw out a \$1.56 million judgment against the Foreign Mission Board in a unanimous opinion handed down Sept. 20.

The opinion of the seven justices reversed a July 1990 verdict in a jury trial in Richmond Circuit Court that awarded the sum to children of a former missionary couple who suffered sexual abuse from their father, G. Thomas Wade Jr. Diana Sue Wade, the children's mother, filed the suit on their behalf.

Since no constitutional issues were raised, the case will not go beyond the Virginia Supreme Court, according to attorneys for the mission board.

The crux of arguments in the appeal to the Supreme Court centered around interpretation under Virginia law about what contractual relationship, if any, existed between the Wades and the board that would call for the board to protect the children from abuse by their father.

The Supreme Court opinion, written by Justice Elizabeth Lacy, said the court found no evidence "which would support a finding that the parties con-

templated (when they were appointed as missionaries in 1976) that the board would be obligated to protect one family member from the criminal actions of another family member."

"Although Mr. Wade's actions were unconscionable and the impact on the family tragic, no reasonable person could conclude that in 1976 either Mrs. Wade or the board intended that the oral contract regarding protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the Wade family encompassed the board's protection of the Wade children from the felonious acts of Mr. Wade," Justice Lacy wrote.

In reversing the lower court and finding in favor of the Foreign Mission Board, the Supreme Court ruled the "trial court improperly submitted the question of the interpretation of the contract to the jury." The trial court had ruled an enforceable oral contract existed.

Diana Wade filed a second suit last November, alleging damages to herself. It was set for trial Jan. 13, 1992, to allow the Virginia Supreme Court time to rule on the appeal in the children's case.

SBC takeover: "God's judgment on Baptist pride"

By Ken Camp and Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — The takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention by fundamental-conservatives may have been God's judgment on a proud people convinced they were "God's last and only hope," according to Stan Hastey, executive director of the Southern Baptist Alliance.

Hastey sought to trace Southern Baptists' sojourn "from cultural captivity to spiritual freedom," during a convocation on "Baptists: Our Heritage and Future" Sept. 6-7 that drew about 800 participants to Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Our genius has been that of radical, freedom-loving people who at their best settled for nothing less than

what is the spiritual birthright of all God's children — to reflect the image of God," Hastey said, noting many Baptists have forgotten their heritage.

"We have forgotten that 'soul freedom' was the watchword of the Baptist movement in its beginnings and that our earliest ancestors were fierce dissenters against the very ideas — theological and religious ideas — that today are enforced by so-called Baptists who have no idea under the sun what their denominational designation means," he said.

According to Hastey, who has a doctorate in church history, racism and regionalism were the SBC's birthright. A "success syndrome" became its superstructure in the years following defeat in the Civil War. And

"spiritual triumphalism" became its hallmark feature during the growth period of the 1950s to 1970s, Hastey said.

"My growing conviction in recent years has been that the takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention by a group of people whose investment in the SBC was, at best, marginal is nothing more or less than divine judgment on a group that had become convinced of its own indispensability to the God of the ages to fulfill God's mission on earth," he said.

The fledgling Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should focus on enabling moderate-conservative churches to fulfill their missionary, educational, and social-justice tasks apart from the SBC structure, Hastey said.

"Disenchanted Southern Baptist congregations should refrain from demanding of the Fellowship that it replicate instantly all of the functions of the old body, for to do so surely will sentence it to failure," he said.

"I would argue further that the last thing the kingdom of God needs just now is another essentially white body of Baptists in the southeastern and southwestern United States. If our vision is no larger than creating a newer and sleeker model of the old SBC, it will fail — or it should."

Using the analogy of a tree, Buckner Fanning, pastor of Trinity Church, San Antonio, Texas, told convocation participants that new leaves must grow on a tree that has died.

"We have been stripped," Fanning

said. "Our institutional leaves are gone, but meetings like this and people like you will bring new growth."

"The God who never sleeps and the God of the ages is alive and well, and we will see new leaves, new lives if we are faithful to the basic command of Jesus . . . to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor," he said. Churches, he added, should develop a vision to be "places of grace — accepting, forgiving, loving."

George Mason, pastor of Wilshire Church, Dallas, said a "majoritarian attitude" among Baptists in the South has led to "a decided lack of striving and struggling among Baptists for identity."

(See SBC on page 7)

She heard their dreams for team giving — at Memphis in 1925

By Anne W. McWilliams



Ann Newton

"I would not belong to a church that did not support the Cooperative Program!" Ann Newton at her house in Southaven said it like she meant it. Indeed, she was at the Southern Baptist Convention the night it voted to establish that method of giving, and she has contributed to the CP for all of its 66 years.

That Saturday evening of May 16, 1925, Ann traveled to the City Auditorium in Memphis with her Sunday School teacher, her best friend, her cousin, and another girl, in the teacher's Model-T Ford. Ann's name was Baker then, and she was 15.

"There had been controversy about the vote on the Cooperative Program," she remembers. Some thought it would pass. Others didn't. Some thought it would work in the churches. Others didn't. Her farsighted teacher, one of those "for it," had realized this would be an important occasion and wanted the four young people with her to be a part of it.

"I think my pastor, C. E. Rice, was for it, too," Ann recalls. Just the year before, he had baptized her. A friend of hers, who had been her basketball coach and also her school teacher, had witnessed to her and won her to the Lord. In north Memphis, Ann belonged to the Hollywood Baptist Church, where her parents had been charter members. "I'd done lots of church going," she states. Her mother had later become a Seventh Day Adventist so Ann would go to church with her on Saturdays and with her dad on Sundays.

The city auditorium was crowded with 5,600 "representatives" from various states, the highest number, 683, from Mississippi. Nearly everyone was calling Memphis "a royal host city," though some complained that it was hard to hear in the large auditorium.

That year Calvin Coolidge was president of the United States and George W. McDaniels of Virginia was president of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the Saturday night session, L. R. Scarborough of Texas presented

the following statement from the Commission on Co-operative Program.

After reviewing the whole situation confronting our general work, especially our Home and Foreign Missions Boards, your Commission on the Co-operative Program brings to you these statements.

Difficulties, burdens, and crises are no new thing in the history of the Kingdom of God. The past is a record of triumphs over difficulties by conquering faith and united effort. The difficulties we face are more than matched by the ability of our people to meet them if we approach them in faith, prayer, courage, and sacrifice. The successes of the future depend upon the heroic spirit shown by our people at this time.

Therefore we challenge our people to join us in the following measures:

1. That we give ourselves to prayer and supplication.
2. That we turn our faces to God in the most confident faith.
3. That we cultivate the things that make for fellowship and good will.
4. That we give ourselves in the fullest support to the Co-operative Program as the best and most practical way of meeting our obligations and providing for the ongoing of all our enterprises. The hearty support of this program by all our people will relieve our present embarrassments and provide for our future responsibilities.

All the responsibilities, spiritual and financial, that rest upon us at this time demand that we address ourselves to this task without delay.

Looking back, Ann Newton can't remember what was said in the discussion, but remembers there was a great deal of it (led by Charles E. Burts of Tennessee, "General Director"). "I was only 15," she said, "and my mind was on many things. Now I wish I had kept notes." Though she could not vote herself, she was happy when the measure was adopted by "rising vote."

Music at that convention was under direction of I. E. Reynolds of Texas; he had opened the Wednesday session with "How Firm a Foundation" and "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." On Friday, an MC quartette (Tom Doty, W. L. Cooper, Dave Taylor, and H. L. Fortenberry) had sung, "I Need Thee Every Hour." George Truett was scheduled to bring the closing message on Sunday.

In her 67 years as a Baptist member, Ann has spent 63 as pianist in three churches, while at the same time giving, through those churches, to the Cooperative Program — Hollywood Church, Memphis (1928-1963); First Church, Horn Lake (1963-71); and First Church, Fairhaven, Olive Branch (1971-). At age 18, she took up her duties as pianist at Hollywood: "I knew God had called me to be a church musician." She began teaching music at age 19 and is still teaching at age 81. When senior citizens get together at Horn Lake, she usually plays the piano; also, her travels with three friends from Horn Lake have taken her to such places as Branson, Mo., where she could listen to country and gospel music.

Through 54 years of marriage, her husband teamed with her in gifts to the CP. She studied at Normal College (now Memphis State), and on Nov. 15, 1934, she married James O. Newton, who later was a supervisor for Dover Elevators for 30 years. He had been a sort of halfhearted Methodist until he started "following her around" during their teens, and she told him she wouldn't date him unless he would go to church. For a while, he'd wait for her outside the Baptist church, but she said, "You have to come inside if you want to walk home with me." He did, and Ann recalls, "He became one of the best Baptists you ever saw — deacon, Sunday School teacher . . ." They had three children, 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In 1963, the Newtons moved to 8313 Baldwin Cove, Southaven, where she still lives. He died a few years ago, at age 80. Not one of those who traveled in the Model-T with her to the SBC in 1925 is still living. "I wish I could ask them some questions about that meeting," she said.

Her name, Ann, came from a grandmother named for Ann Hasseltine Judson, pioneer missionary.

Of one thing she is sure: "I am still very much for the Cooperative Program. I don't see how our churches could ever get anything done without it."

"We have a mandate . . . to disciple people . . ."

By Lonnie Wilkey

MEMPHIS — Discipling Christians and leading them to their full potential is a challenge churches must meet today, agreed leaders at the first Discipleship Spectacular in Memphis.

"I believe we have a mandate from God to disciple people who are saved. We are to teach them doctrines and ethics in such a way it will help them to develop to their full potential," said Johnnie Hall, director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department, the primary sponsor of the event which was held Sept. 13-14 at Highland Heights Church.

Almost 400 people registered for the first of three Discipleship Spectaculars to be held over the next three years in Tennessee. This year's event also was sponsored by the Discipleship Training departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Discipleship Training Department at the BSSB, noted that Discipleship Training has had many names over the years, from BYPU to Training Union to Church Training. "It doesn't matter what we call it as long as we get the job done," he challenged.

Edgemon observed a disciple is one "who grows to become like Jesus."

A disciple is one who never says he will retire, but rather wants to keep discovering and experiencing Jesus, he said.

Art Criscoe, director of the management support group of the BSSB's Discipleship Training Department, noted that one of his professors once said that "the greatest waste of all is the waste of human potentiality."

The primary purpose of Discipleship Training, he said, "is to help people grow, not waste their potential, and help them become all they can be."

Criscoe cited several trends in the United States today as well as issues facing Americans in this decade.

Among those issues are international tensions, a fragile economy, growing pollution, poverty, and the drug crisis.

Problems in our society will be not solved by the government or legislation, Criscoe said, noting Christians

have been given this generation to minister to and reach for Christ.

Criscoe said that Jesus said we are not to retreat from the world, but rather we are "to reach the world and disciple them in the faith."

T. W. Hunt, who works in prayer ministry at the BSSB, reminded conference participants that Southern Baptists should be servants to the nation.

Our model for servanthood comes from Jesus himself, Hunt observed.

Two pastors challenged conference participants on the final day of the weekend meeting.

Perry Sanders, pastor of First Church, Lafayette, La., said discipleship is the "lifeblood of what we are doing." He reminded leaders that the church is built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ himself.

"Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the church," Sanders said, noting that a church built on Jesus "can move the gates of hell itself."

In the final message, Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., reminded participants they have a mandate.

"We are witnesses. We have a story to tell that must be told," Pollard challenged.

The Discipleship Spectacular featured numerous conferences on various aspects of Discipleship Training work.

Those attending the conference were pleased with the weekend event.

"We've been given a lot of information," said Bill Mynatt of Calvary Church, Knoxville. He noted the conferences were "compact and to the point" while the general sessions were "inspirational."

June Stewart, Discipleship Training director at First Church, Memphis, said the conference was very helpful. "It's the kind of training every director needs prior to becoming a director," she observed.

Hall, while he would have liked to have seen more in attendance, was pleased with the outcome. "I'm grateful for 380 leaders committed to discipling believers," he said.

Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18-19 at Wallace Memorial Church in Knoxville.



MISSISSIPPIANS IN MEMPHIS — Several Mississippi Baptists participated in the recent Discipleship Spectacular at Highland Heights Church, Memphis. The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department was one of the sponsors. Mose Dangerfield, right, director of the Mississippi convention's department, visits with, from left, front row, Barbara and Owen Riddick, Lake Washington First Church, Glen Allan; back row, Onita, Tommy, and Thomas Jamieson, Slayden Church, Lamar; and Lawanda Thompson of Memphis.

Hugh Wamble dies in car accident

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — G. Hugh Wamble, a prominent Southern Baptist educator and religious liberty champion, died Sept. 22 in an automobile accident in Kansas City, Mo. He was 68.

Wamble, who had been battling the effects of a malignant brain tumor since January, died in the emergency room at Liberty (Mo.) Hospital after a car driven by his wife, Beverly, hit a guardrail on Interstate 35 in

Kansas City, North, and turned over. As of the morning of Sept. 23, Mrs. Wamble, age 65, remains in serious condition in the intensive care unit at North Kansas City Hospital.

Professor of church history at Midwestern Seminary since 1959, Wamble underwent surgery for a brain tumor Jan. 18. When pathology reports indicated the tumor was malignant, he was treated with radiation and chemotherapy, but doctors

were unable to eradicate the malignancy.

Wamble's photographic memory and mental astuteness were something of a legend at Midwestern. Throughout his 32-year career at the seminary, students claimed the professor could end a lecture in mid-sentence one day, then complete the sentence at the beginning of the lecture period the following day.

(See **WAMBLE** on page 7)



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Bro. James and Miss Barbara: Micah 6:8 in action

"Don't let the world mash you into its mold . . ." James Justice said he's tried to live by Romans 12:1-2, especially this phrase from the Williams translation.

Certainly no run-of-the-mill man would try to be pastor and postmaster at the same time, both full-time jobs.

When Justice retired July 31 on his 65th birthday, he had served 35 years and nine months as pastor of Calvary, Eupora, the church's only pastor since its beginning in 1955. A big percentage of that time, he had also been postmaster at Eupora. He'd become rural carrier in 1962 and later stepped up to postal clerk and postmaster.

Hard? Very. "In all those years at the post office," he said, "I never had two weeks off." If he took just one week, he had to leave town, or someone would be calling to ask a question. "But I felt the Lord had handed me the job and that it was his will that I continue it."

As postmaster, he knew all the people and where they lived. "I knew more about them than they knew I knew!" That was an advantage in his pastoral work, a point of contact for reaching out. "If you don't love people," he said, "don't work in the post office!"

Justice represents Webster County on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. In that association, he has been moderator, clerk, and treasurer, the latter for 25 years.

A Calvary member, Sue Boatman, said, "Brother James and his wife Miss Barbara are selfless and giving to the last drop of their energies. They are the living example of Micah 6:8: 'He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'"

As Calvary pastor, he baptized 109; conducted 99 funerals; and performed 48 wedding ceremonies. He and Barbara began and supported its bus ministry and jail and nursing home ministry.

"We have been 'grandparents' for the whole church," she said. Their own two children are Kathy, (married to Lewis Hunter, lives in Quitman) and Mark (single, still lives at home, leads singing at Calvary). Kathy has a

6-year-old son, Clark. (A coincidence: James, Lewis, and Mark share the same birthday.)

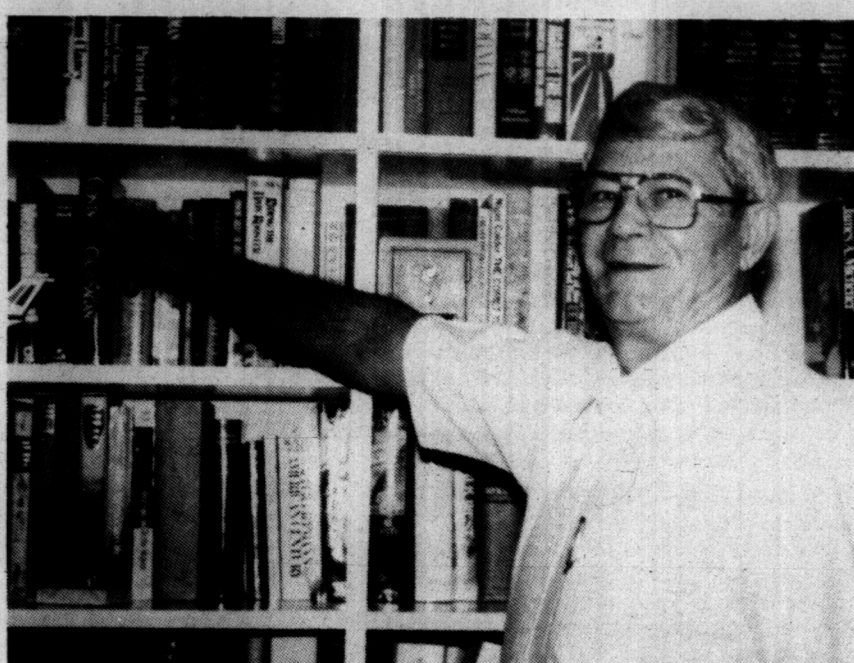
Of Barbara, Mrs. Boatman said, "There was never a job too big for her to tackle, never a need she wouldn't try to meet. She has been a friend, confidante, spiritual advisor, marital advisor, chauffeur, seamstress, baby-sitter, wedding coordinator, shower hostess, nurse, janitor, grounds-keeper . . ."

James was born at Grady, west of Eupora. World War II interrupted his life after high school and sent him to Japan and the Philippines. Then, working at Wells-Lamont, a glove factory, he met Barbara Johnson. Not until after he married her in March 1949 did he become a Christian. That happened in 1950 during a revival C.M. Day was preaching at Sapa Church. J. W. Nolen, pastor, baptized him.

His call and ordination to the ministry came soon. His wife kept working, she said, "so he could go to school and preach." She continued at Wells-Lamont for 30 years.

While he was studying at Wood Junior College and Mississippi State (a degree in history, 1961), Calvary men constructed a church building "by elbow grease and faith."

"Now for the first time since we married," Barbara said recently, "we have leisure time to spend together." They have a lovely country house in the "Ticky Bend" community. "He



James Justice shows off his extensive library.

sits over there at his computer and I sit over here with my cross-stitch." Every room in their house is decorated with her intricate, exquisite needlework. For instance, the Lord's Supper "painting" above the dining table was created with her needle.

At his computer, James said, "I'm doing research on the sinners of Jesus' day. Those are the sinners of our day. They are out there, not com-

ing to church. Jesus did not wait for them to come to the temple. He went out where they were to minister to them."

Some day he's hoping to find an Atlanta Journal for 1857 and see what the world was like then. His great-grandfather, John Forsyth Johnson, wrote a history of Choctaw and Webster counties, 1836-1902; James has Johnson's journals from that era.

In fact, one Memorial Day he preached at Ebenezer on Romans 5:18, a text he found recorded in the May 1857 journal. His sermon illustrations that day from the journal named ancestor of many of those in his audience.

His wide reading includes: psychology, sociology, and philosophy. Spy stories are his favorite fiction; he particularly likes Tom Clancy.

His half-acre garden is another hobby. He learned when he'd come home exhausted from the post office that physical work would help relieve stress. "I enjoyed not worrying about the price of stamps."

Also he wants to assist the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, with PROBE in Webster County, an in-depth study to determine potential new work/ministry needs.

Once, when Calvary sent a building team to Haiti, he went along. "We rode mules five miles through the mud." He said he hopes to participate in a mission project in Zimbabwe.

Though he's an even-tempered man, one thing does bother him: compromising Christians. "God has all the power. He takes these imperfect instruments and puts power in them, and then we leave it unused. We are just instruments to take the light out. We are the line that carries the electricity. The power is there. Jesus said, 'Let your light shine.' When we do use it, we want it to glorify us. It's there to glorify him, not us."

Organization created for resort ministers

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — An organization has been created for people who minister in resort and leisure settings.

The purpose of the Association of Resort and Leisure Ministers is to "encourage and celebrate the revelation of God's presence in resort and leisure settings," according to a vision statement adopted by 52 people attending the organizational meeting in Atlanta.

Bill Black, home missionary and director of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries in Gatlinburg, Tenn., is the association's president. He said resort and leisure ministries involves "communicating the gospel to people who are caught up in the leisure lifestyle."

"Whether it's a destination resort or

a leisure activity, they're getting their identity from play," Black said.

The group plans to produce a newsletter and offer workshops for continuing education and fellowship. The group will be a resource for people wanting to begin resort and leisure ministries, and it will promote awareness of needs and opportunities for ministry.

In addition to Black, officers are Jeff Wagner, director of mission ministries for the Southern Nevada Association in Las Vegas, vice president for programs and services; Randal Cowling, director of Atlantic City (N.J.) Ministries, vice president for publications; Bo Simms, director of

special ministries for the General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, vice president for membership; and Christy Hansen, Atlanta layperson, vice president for administration.

The organization's yearly membership fees are \$35 for individuals, \$50 for couples, \$20 for students and people age 60 and over, and \$200 for organizational sponsors.

For more information about the group, write the Association of Resort and Leisure Ministers, P.O. Box 2011, Columbia, SC 29202-2011 or call Black at (615) 436-4076.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.



Barbara Justice finally finds time to sit on the patio and take a break.

ZAIRE

From page 3

political future of Zaire is, but you can draw your own conclusions about the economic situation," embassy spokeswoman Lynn Gutensohn told one group of Americans Sept. 25.

"Have any of you who have been out seen a single food store — or any other store — with anything left on their shelves?" she said. "The people were hungry last week when there were things to buy but at high prices. What do you think will happen now that there is nothing to buy and they get increasingly hungry?"

As word of the military protest spread Sept. 23, Americans were urged to go home and stay off the streets.

But when patrols became gangs of armed robbers, others joined in. In many houses even the plumbing fixtures were ripped out and carried away. Gunfire echoed throughout the city as looting spread and the appearance of foreign troops on the Kin-

shasa streets flushed out memories of 1964 when hundreds of foreigners, including a number of missionaries, died in a brutal civil war.

The morning of Sept. 24, as Americans traded damage reports over the common citizen band radio channel, word came from the U.S. Embassy to private U.S. citizens. "The situation is now chaos. As soon as you safely can, you are advised to assemble at one of the four evacuation points. Bring one suitcase per person and food for two days."

After the 10-minute ride across the Zaire River, the groups boarded planes at the Brazzaville airport. The first flight went to Frankfurt, Germany, while the other two went directly to Washington D.C.

The evacuation of people who remain up-country will be assisted by such organizations as Mission Aviation Fellowship, which regularly operates flights throughout Zaire.

Africa correspondent Craig Bird, who is based in Nairobi, Kenya, was among Southern Baptist missionaries who evacuated Zaire Sept. 26.

ABP adds six to board of directors

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Six people were added to the board of directors of Associated Baptist Press during the board's annual meeting Sept. 21 in Jacksonville, Fla.

The six were elected by the current directors and bring the number of board members to 18. Two others were elected pending their acceptance.

New members are Hugh Greene, senior vice president of Baptist Medical Center and a member of Hendricks Avenue Church, Jacksonville; Dan Hobbs, director of the board of regents for higher education in Oklahoma, a former member of the SBC Executive Committee and a member of First Church, Norman, Okla.; Marv Knox of Louisville, Ky., editor of the Western Recorder, news-

journal of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Jeff Mobley, an attorney and member of Woodmont Church, Nashville, Tenn.; Joe Turner, president of First Sun Management and a member of First Church, Clemson, S.C.; and Ralph Walls, a car dealer and member of Oak Grove Church, Bel Air, Md.

Greg Warner, ABP executive editor, reported the one-year-old news service has published 120 articles by 39 writers since Jan. 1. Weekly issues of ABP are distributed by computer, facsimile, and mail to 111 outlets, including 36 daily newspapers and 33 Baptist newspapers. At least 19 state Baptist newspapers have published ABP stories in the past two months,

directors were told.

Directors heard ABP is operating within its \$120,000 budget for 1991, with income coming from service fees and contributions. Baptist state conventions provided 50% of ABP's income during the first eight months of the year, followed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (18%), service fees from users (15.7%), church contributions (14%), and individual donations (2%).

The board also re-elected its officers: Charles Overby, Arlington, Va., chairman; James Pleitz, Dallas, vice chairman; Judy Strother, Mountain Home, Ark., secretary; and Don McGregor, Jackson, Miss., treasurer. McGregor also serves as volunteer executive director.

capsules

EBF Council confirms John Merritt as president

VARNA, BULGARIA — John W. Merritt has been named president of the European Baptist Federation (EBF), succeeding in the two-year office Peter Barber, general secretary of the Scottish Baptist Union. The EBF Council, which met in Varna, Bulgaria, Sept. 25-29, confirmed Merritt's election following his completion of the requisite term as vice-president. He held that office, 1989-91.



Merritt

Merritt was born in Hattiesburg. He received theological training in New Orleans and served as pastor of two Mississippi churches. In 1964, the Merritts were sent to Italy by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to minister at the request of the Italian Baptist Union. He was called as general secretary of the European Baptist Convention in 1972, a position he will continue to hold even during his two years as EBF president.

EBC is an association of 58 English-language Baptist churches located in 13 European countries. The churches minister to the large number of internationals who live in Europe whose first or secondary language in

English. The Convention joined the European Baptist Federation in 1974 and has been a major contributor to EBF ministries.

Merritt has served as a member of the general councils of both the Baptist World Alliance and the European Baptist Federation.

Elizabeth Merritt, John's wife, is a university-trained counselor and has a ministry in that role in Wiesbaden, Germany, where the Merritts live.

Contentment is the realization of how much I already have. — Dave Grant

NATIONWIDE CHURCH GROWTH CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR SUMMER OF 1992: NASHVILLE (BP) — Two Southern Baptist agencies and a state convention are joining forces next year to sponsor a national conference designed to provide a comprehensive view of church growth. Officials from the Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas recently announced plans for the Nationwide Church Growth Conference, Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 1992, at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, Texas. "This may well be the most comprehensive conference on church growth that has ever been held," said James Semple, director of the state missions commission of the BGCT, and steering committee chairman of the National Church Growth Conference.

SEMINARY EXTENSION HONORS CENTER DIRECTORS OF YEAR: NASHVILLE (BP) — In the year of his 90th birthday, Roy Johnson still directs the Seminary Extension center in Portland, Ore. For the past 30 years he has been helping deliver theological education to the people of Interstate Association. The Seminary Extension program recognized Johnson's contributions in naming him Director of the Year for the Western United States. Michael Chance, director of education for the Metropolitan New York Association, was honored for the Eastern United States.

BWA SENDS FUNDS TO HELP YUGOSLAVIA: WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance has sent funds to the European Baptist Federation to help Baptist pastors and families who because of the civil war have been displaced and are suffering. In a message to the Baptist Union of Yugoslavia, one of the 157 member-bodies of the BWA, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz expressed the support, prayer, and concern of Baptists around the world. The General Council, the legislative body of the BWA, met in Zagreb, Yugoslavia for their annual meeting in August 1989.

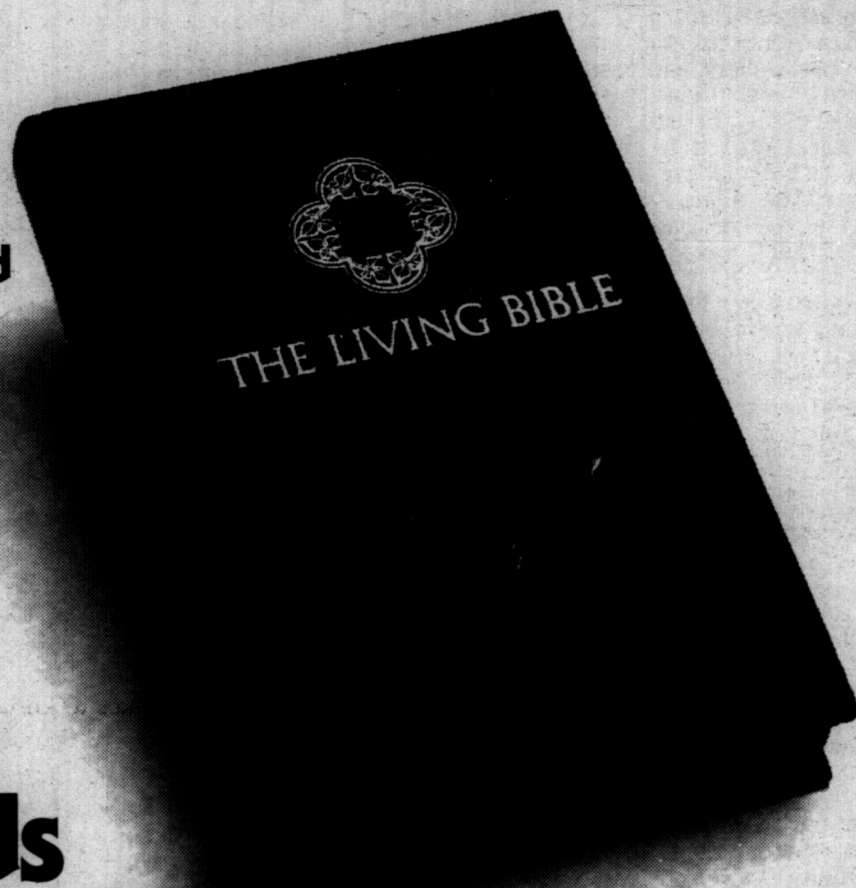
"HALLELUJAH HULA" BREACHES BARRIERS OF SUSPICION: For ten years, members of Island Breeze — established to present the gospel through native cultures — have taken the songs and dance of the Pacific to thousands of people across North America, appearing at hotels, churches, conventions, and in the open air. Drawn from the islands represented by the Youth With A Mission-associated group — Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, and the Cook Islands — the dances include the hula, fearsome Maori chants, and the fire dance. Island Breeze are now officially members of the Sannich tribe of Vancouver Island, following last year's visit to the tribes in western Canada. They were adopted after performing before leaders and members of the community in the tribe's longhouse, during a tour of Indian reserves. Troupe leader Coleman Kaopua said that the honor was bestowed after one chief told him: "Our people have been going round in circles looking for their identity, and you have something we need."

SCRIPTURES FOR THE 1992 OLYMPIC GAMES: NEW YORK (ABS) — With the Olympic Games to be held in Barcelona, Spain, only months away, churches and evangelical organizations in Catalonia are preparing for this major world sporting event through the Evangelical Commission for the Olympics in Barcelona (CEOB) formed in 1990. The first area of CEOB work is the program for the Olympic Village in which services of spiritual help and religious acts of worship will be available to the athletes and all others associated with the Olympics. The second is the Program of Evangelization and Discipleship, concerned primarily with tourists and people living in Barcelona. Daniel Rodriguez, coordinator of the CEOB, as well as coordinator of the Bible Society in Catalonia, said that 500,000 New Testaments are needed, preferably in Catalan and Castilian, the area's official languages, and in other languages for athletes and visitors.

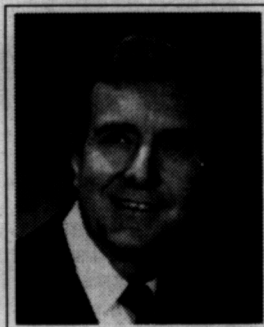
100,000 GOSPELS FOR THE VISUALLY-HANDICAPPED IN RUSSIA: NEW YORK (ABS) — For the first time, extra-large print editions of the Russian Bible have been produced for the visually handicapped. The United Bible Societies (UBS) placed an order for 25,000 copies of each of the four Gospels with an Hungarian publisher. The completed books will be transported to Moscow, where the Gospels will be shared among the Bible Society in the Soviet Union, the Baptist Council, and other Protestant churches. The books, with the Gospels varying in length between 68 and 112 pages, are a gift from the UBS, made possible by 50% financing from the ABS. The typeface has been specifically adapted for the needs of the visually handicapped.

MISSIONARY SURGEON IN INDIA GAINS NEEDED MEDICAL LICENSE: BANGALORE, India (BP) — A Southern Baptist missionary surgeon who recently decided to quit practicing medicine so she could stay in India has been informed she will be allowed by the Indian government to operate again. The missionary, Rebekah Naylor of Fort Worth, Texas, stopped performing surgery and related medical work at Bangalore Baptist Hospital early this year. The Indian council that approves foreign medical personnel had notified her Feb. 6 it would not grant her a license. But government officials telephoned Naylor and read her a letter dated Sept. 18 saying she had been granted a 2-year license to practice medicine in India. They were mailing the letter to her. The decision came after a series of contacts that seem unlikely, at least on the surface. They involve a foreign missions volunteer, two Southern Baptist pastors in Kentucky, U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford of Kentucky, an aide to Ford from India, and the Indian Embassy in Washington. The final contact, a phone call by the Indian ambassador in Washington to his nation's secretary of health in Delhi, completed a communication link Naylor had been unable to make inside India. "It's hard to believe it really has happened," said Naylor, a missionary to India since 1973. "I am so grateful for the countless numbers of people who have been praying for this, and I think how it finally has happened has been so totally miraculous. I think it shows how wonderfully God works in ways that we never expect."

Over 37
Million Sold



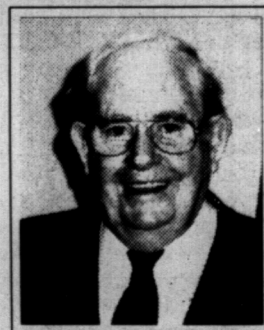
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HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 3, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



To Be An Effective Witness

by Jan Cossitt, Acteens Consultant
WMU Department, MBCB

To become a more effective Christian witness, one must first understand that the Holy Spirit reveals God's secrets and opens the lost person's heart to God's eternal truth. Do not depend upon the way you witness or how much you know, but depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit in the process.

I use the model from the Continuing Witnessing Training material in witnessing.

- F - family (tell me about them)
- I - interests (do you have any special hobbies, interests, etc?)
- R - religious background (when you attend church, where do you attend?)
- E - exploratory questions (let me ask you a question)

Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to heaven when you die? Or, Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What do you think you would say?

Continuing in conversation, I share information such as the following:

God has a purpose for every person

1. all receive eternal life as a free gift - Romans 6:23
2. all can live a full and meaningful life right now - John 10:10
3. all can spend eternity with Jesus in heaven - John 14:3

As I searched for real meaning in life, I discovered that I was a sinner by nature and by choice (Romans 3:23); that I could not save myself (Ephesians 2:9) and I deserved death and hell. (Romans 6:23).

God is holy and just and must punish sin; yet He loves us and has provided forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life - no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

We must share in our witness that Jesus is God and became man (John 1:1,14); that He died for us on the cross (1 Peter 3:18) and He was resurrected from the dead (Romans 4:25). The only way Jesus can have an effect on our lives is for us to receive him. We do that by repenting of our sin (Acts 3:19); placing our faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8) and making Jesus Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

As evidence of giving Jesus control we will want to identify with him by confessing Jesus publicly and following Him in baptism and church membership. **HT**

This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.

In the midst of great changes in our world, there is one that has subtly found its way into religious circles. Respect for ministers has taken a serious decline, both in the church and society. God's work in the world is affected, and unless the trend is reversed we will continue to experience moral decay as a nation.

The Bible encourages us to honor our ministers. "We beg you, brothers, pay proper respect to those who work among you, those whom God has chosen to guide and instruct you. Treat them with the greatest respect and love, because of the work they do." (1 Thessalonians 4:12-13)

Everyone, including our ministers, likes to know that they are loved and respected. The reputation of our churches can be greatly enhanced in the community by giving special recognition to those who serve along-side the lay people. It could also mean that there

would be fewer problems, and a stronger fellowship will develop.

Here are a few suggestions on how

LET'S OBSERVE PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

by Louis Smith, Director
Church-Minister
Relations & Annuity, MBCB

to organize a **Pastor and Staff Appreciation Day**. (Where the pastor is the only staff member the day should be called "Pastor Appreciation Day.")

1. The deacons, personnel committee, or the appropriate group should place this day on the church calendar where it will not conflict with holidays or church programs.
2. It should be planned during a

Sunday morning service or at a time when the largest number of members will be present.

3. Enlist church leaders to express appreciation - such as Chairman of Deacons, W.M.U. Director, etc. Someone from the state convention, the association, or the city or county government may be asked to speak.

4. Present the pastor and staff with an appropriate recognition for devoted service. They may be recognized for years of ministry - five, ten, fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five.

5. The local newspaper and the Baptist Record should be requested to print the story of your efforts.

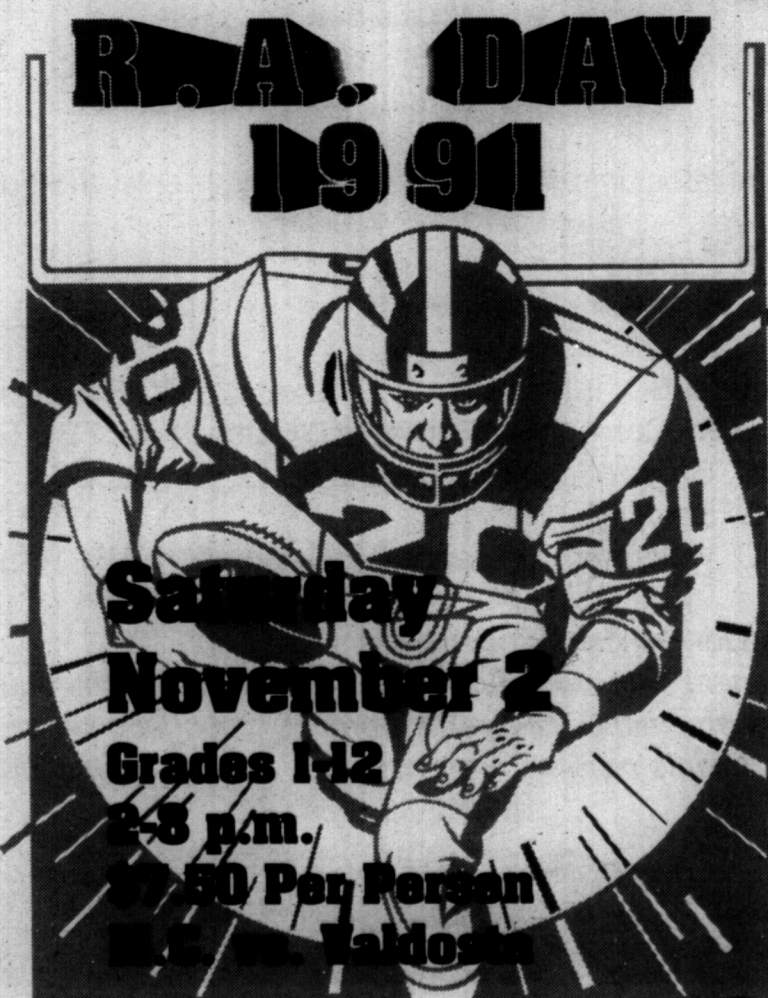
This recognition will be a tremendous uplift for the pastor, the staff, and the church. New energy can flow into the ministry of the church, as well as a positive message of love is sent to those outside the church. The pastor and staff smile. The church smiles. God smiles. **HT**

MISSIONARY SPEAKER:
Greg Massey

MUSIC:
Mike Harland

TESTIMONIES:
meet the Football Players and Cheerleaders

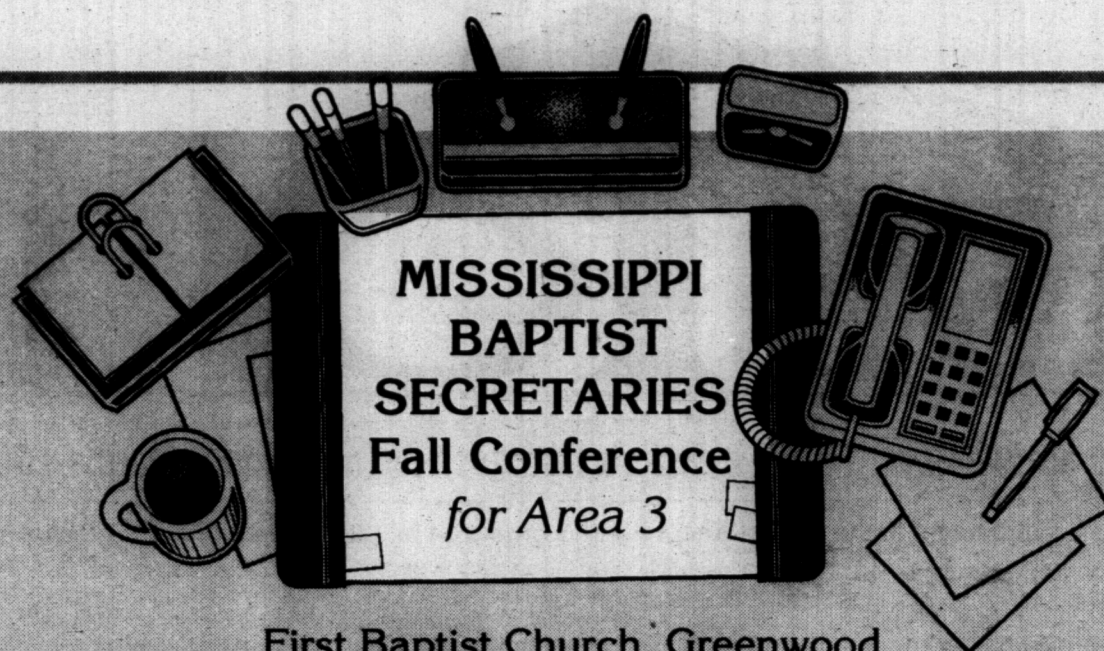
FOOTBALL GAME:
M.C.
vs.
Valdosta



WHERE:
Mississippi College Coliseum
Clinton, MS

COST:
\$7.50 per person
includes meal,
ballgame and
insurance

REGISTRATION:
Contact Brotherhood Department
at 968-3800 for
registration
details



First Baptist Church, Greenwood
October 10, 1991
 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

(Area 3 includes Bolivar, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Yalobusha, Leflore, Grenada, Carroll, Montgomery, Washington, Humphreys, and Holmes Association)

Coordinator: Ruth Smith, secretary, First Baptist Church, Grenada; Area 3 Representative for MBSA

Leader: Mary Ray, secretary, Rankin Baptist Association, Brandon; approved worker for Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB

Sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, and Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association

For further information contact Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, 968-3800, extension 3905 or Ruth Smith, 226-3661.

Agenda

9:00	Registration	
9:30	Welcome and Introductions	Ruth Smith
9:45	Records Management	Mary Ray
10:30	Break	
10:45	Newsletter Preparation	Mary Ray
11:30	Lunch	
	(at the famous Greenwood Crystal Restaurant)	
1:00	MBSA Update	Betty Chesteen
1:15	Secretarial Ministry	Mary Ray
2:00	Certification Information	Betty Chesteen
2:15	Sharing Time	Ruth Smith
2:45	Adjourn	

College Students in Discipleship Training

College students are surrounded by hundreds or thousands of other students each day. How to choose friends from among so many diverse personalities and how to build close enduring friendships can be difficult decisions.

Developing Meaningful Christian Relationships, by Esther Burroughs was written specifically to help college students build and maintain relationships. This is one in a series of Collegiate Disciple materials available from the Baptist Book Store.

Questions most asked by Students, by Jerry Haymer helps college students confront four important questions of life: Is the Bible literally true? What if faith makes no sense? Hark! What's this born again stuff? Why did Eddie die? This study helps to clarify Christian beliefs and to gain biblical perspective of those beliefs. This study is also in the collegiate Disciple series and available from the Baptist Book Store.

Alcohol: A Christian Student's Response, by Wayne Hatcher examines the problem of alcohol abuse at college and the results of this crisis. This book also suggests practical ways Christian students can minister to students affected by alcohol abuse. This, too, is a Collegiate Disciple resource piece and available from the Baptist Book Store.

Each of these little booklets can be used in Discipleship Training for adults or can be given to college students by churches who are interested in continuing to minister to their college students.

KEY LEADER SEMINAR

*But Our Situation is Different:
 Churches on Mission in their Setting*
 by Robert E. Wiley

October 25, 1991

Baptist Building, Jackson
 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Robert E. Wiley, Director of Association Missions Division, Home Mission Board

Receive Credit: Any Associational Leadership Diploma

To register: Mail name, address and \$10.00 Registration Fee (for book and lunch) by October 15 to:

Cooperative Missions Department
 P.O. Box 530
 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Q&A

About Sunday School Literature

Q: What's improved?
 What's new?
 What's changed?

A: *Sunday School Literature*

Q: Where can I get the latest information on the improvements and how to use the Sunday School Curriculum?

A: *Church Leadership Training Conferences*
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the following locations

OCT 5 — Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale; FBC, Oxford; FBC Booneville

OCT 12 — FBC, McComb; Main Street BC, Hattiesburg; FBC Gulfport

OCT 26 — FBC, Greenville; FBC, Winona & No. Winona BC;
 FBC, Starkville

OCT 19 — FBC, Vicksburg; Crossgates BC, Brandon; FBC, Meridian

Q: What will be offered for Sunday School leaders?

A: *Conferences for general officers, adult department directors, adult teachers, youth workers, older children's workers, middle children's workers, younger children's workers, older preschool workers, middle preschool workers, and younger preschool workers.*

HOUSE OF

MISSISSIPPI

Oct. 7-11
1991

7:00 ▶ 8:30 p.m.



L. Graham Smith
Director
Church Music Department



Sarah Talley
PraiSing Organist



Dot Pray
PraiSing Pianist



Edd Brashier
North Orchestra Director



Karen Hardy
South Orchestra Director



Danny R. Jones
PraiSing Coordinator

October 7 Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

James R. Chatham, II - Host pastor
Lester Mason - Host Minister of music
Edd Brashier - Orchestra Director
Sanctuary Bells, Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo
David Prevost, Director

October 8 First Baptist Church Grenada

Philip W. Weatherwax - Host Pastor
Rick Munn - Host Minister of Music
Edd Brashier - Orchestra Director
Exaltation Ringers, First Baptist, Greenwood
Keith Bennett, Director

October 9 First Baptist Church Biloxi

Frank Gunn - Host Pastor
Leon Bedsole - Host Minister of Music
Karen Hardy - Orchestra Director
Carey Carillon, William Carey College
Frederica Braidfoot, Director

October 10 Temple Baptist Church Hattiesburg

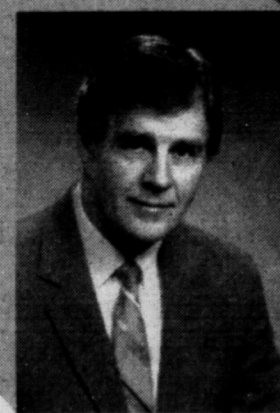
Gary Berry - Host Pastor
Paul Koonce - Host Minister of Music
Karen Hardy - Orchestra Director
Lyrique Bells - Bay Springs Baptist
Jamey Shannon, Director

October 11 Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson

Bill L. Fuller - Host Pastor
Lewis Oswalt - Host Minister of Music
Karen Hardy - Orchestra Director
Mississippi College Ringers
Carol Joy Sparkman, Director

GUEST DIRECTOR

Dr. Wes Forbis
Director, Church Music Department
Baptist Sunday School Board



1991 Fall Area Meetings

**Sponsored by the
Mississippi WMU Department
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board**

AREA 1 • OCTOBER 17

9:30 a.m., Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
7:00 p.m., Oakhurst Baptist Church,
Clarksdale

Special Missionary Guest: Dene Greer,
Liberia

WMU Staff Member: Marjean Patterson

AREA 3 • OCTOBER 24

10:00 a.m., First Baptist, Greenville
7:00 p.m., North Carrollton Baptist Church
Special Missionary Guests: Russell and
Melinda Kyzar, Costa Rica

WMU Staff Member: Ashley McCaleb

AREA 4 • OCTOBER 22

10:00 a.m., First Baptist Church, West Point
Special Missionary Guest: Laura Dunaway,
Brazil

WMU Staff Member: Ashley McCaleb

AREA 6 • NOVEMBER 7

10:00 a.m., Forest Baptist Church
7:00 p.m., Chunky Baptist Church
Special Missionary Guests: Bill and Violet
Hales, The Gambia

WMU Staff Member: Ashley McCaleb

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



October 18-19, 1991
Lake Tiak-O'Khata
Louisville, Mississippi

PROGRAM PERSONALITY: Pat Bailey, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky

TARGET AUDIENCE: Everyone in associational and church CSM Leadership other than literacy

For Registration or Further Information Contact....

Neron Smith, Cooperative Missions Department • Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • (601) 968-3800, Ext. 3961

"Literature Visitation"

by Linda Reeves, Consultant
Sunday School Department, MBCB

"Every time we used literature visitation, our attendance count was up the following Sunday." Sunday School director

Literature visitation is a plan to visit members and prospects in the home at least four times a year. The goal is to place new Bible study materials in the hands of every Sunday School member and prospect before the first Sunday of each new quarter.

The advantages are:

- Can be used for a variety of visits;
- Assigns definite responsibility for visitation;
- Has a specific purpose in mind;
- Is an easy-to-follow play;
- Encourages Bible study;
- Builds Sunday School attendance;
- Helps reclaim chronic absentees;
- Provides a way to visit and witness to the unsaved; and
- Involves all workers.

Every year Sunday School Preparation Week is conducted in many churches, to have a regular time of planning, training, and study for the new Sunday School Year. During this week a time should be set aside for literature visitation and distribution.

Try it! You'll like it! **HT**

October is Outreach Month



The fall of the year is a time of excitement and new beginnings. Children have headed to school and are starting a new phase of learning. Football season has started and created excitement among sports fans. Thoughts have begun to turn to cooler weather, family outings, and holidays. Memories of the smell of turkey and dressing cooking and family gatherings fill our minds.

At this time of year people will also welcome a special invitation to come to Sunday School. They will welcome, even more so, a special ministry touch from someone at the church. October is a good time to place some special emphasis on outreach. Not only do we need to place more emphasis on our week night outreach program, but we also need to allow our creative juices to flow into other outreach opportunities.

For example, we could encourage Sunday School classes to deliver to the homes of those who visited the Sunday School freshly baked bread or pies. Families could be encouraged to invite prospects to dine with them. Sporting events provide a wonderful opportunity to develop fellowship between church members and prospects.

October Outreach month should become more than just a slogan for us. It should become a focused time of a variety of styles of outreach through the Sunday School. **HT**

HOUSE OF

Thursday, October 3, 1991

SBC

From page 3

Tracing his own spiritual life, Mason said he is a Baptist "by spirit, not bloodline" because he was raised among a variety of denominations.

Mason said he was drawn to Baptists through the life of Dan Yearly, pastor of University Church, Coral Gables, Fla. "I was drawn to his life and faith. I wanted to be a part of those people."

Convocation participants in small group sessions examined new ways to relate to the SBC through local denominational relations committees and through the missions task force of the Baptist Cooperative Fellowship.

In the session for denominational relations committees, Dewey Presley, a member of Park Cities Church, Dallas, said his church chose to designate funds sent to the Baptist General Convention of Texas because the "actions of the fundamentalists are unacceptable to this church."

"We needed to eliminate certain agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, and yet we wanted to include our mission agencies and our seminaries," he said. A study of the SBC's constitution, he said, revealed that the convention is bound to honor designated gifts.

Seminary professor Leon McBeth said Baptists at their best have handled ever-present controversy through doctrinal dialogue rather than appeals to artificial unity.

"It does no good to play ostrich and bury our heads in the sand," said McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "We may silence our pastors and teachers. We may muzzle our journalists. But it does little good to ignore reality and cry, 'Peace! Peace!' when there is no peace."

McBeth found himself in the midst of controversy last year when the SBC Sunday School Board halted publication of its centennial history — authored by McBeth — and ordered copies of the manuscript destroyed.

"I dread controversy, but I dread enforced uniformity or artificial harmony even more," he said.

Convocation speakers cited Anabaptists Balthasar Hubmaier and Felix Mantz, English Baptists John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, colonial American Baptist Roger Williams and Southern Baptist George W. Truett among the heroes of the faith.

Sixteenth-century Anabaptist beliefs about the lordship of Jesus Christ, church-state separation, and personal discipleship profoundly influenced early Baptists such as Smyth and Helwys, according to William Estep, distinguished professor emeritus of church history at Southwestern Seminary.

However, Estep said, the 17th century English Baptists did not adopt totally the prevailing Anabaptist view on pacifism.

"One of the great differences between Baptists and Anabaptists was that the Baptists never became absolute pacifists, but they also never — in that day at least — became mindless patriots or advocates of wars of adventure," he said.

In a question-and-answer session later, Estep expanded on that idea, calling the unflinching Americanism of the Religious Right "a cheap substitute for worship of God Almighty."

According to McBeth, Roger Williams' "great idea" — the freedom of the individual soul before God — is endangered today by Roman Catholicism, fundamentalism, Reconstructionism, and historical revisionism, as well as by the Supreme Court itself.

"The independent fundamentalists have never been committed to religious liberty in the way Baptists

historically have been," McBeth said. "They may use the same words, but the meaning is different and the spirit is different."

"What is true of fundamentalism is also, I think, true of the 'new evangelicals.' Many of them, it turns out, do not really understand separation of church and state, and when they do understand it, they do not favor it."

"To these people," McBeth continued, "Roger Williams seems an anachronism — at best outdated and irrelevant, and at worst, a source of modern secularism."

Reconstructionists, who seek the abolition of constitutional democracy and the reinstitution of Old Testament theocracy, see religious liberty and church-state separation as "a modern liberal notion," McBeth noted.

"Roger Williams is no hero to Reconstructionism. In fact, they are dedicated to the destruction of Williams' great idea, and they have made more progress in that direction than most Americans realize. We have a few prominent Southern Baptists who are flirting around the edges of Reconstructionism," McBeth said.

A revisionist interpretation of church-state separation that stresses non-preferentialism over a "wall of separation" is gaining favor in some academic circles and on the Supreme Court bench, he said.

McBeth specifically cited Chief Justice William Rehnquist's assertion that the wall of separation is a "bad metaphor based on bad history" and Associate Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion that free exercise of religion is a "luxury" the United States can no longer afford. He also questioned the commitment of court nominee Clarence Thomas to a traditional understanding of church-state separation.

"The pronouncements and actions of Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, especially when he headed the EEOC, give little reason to think that he ever heard of Roger Williams or his great idea," he said.

Camp is PR director of Baptist General Convention of Texas and Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.

I thank God for my handicaps, for through them I have found myself, my work, and my God. — Helen Keller



Moyers

Twenty years ago this fall, journalist Bill Moyers began listening to America on public television. From affairs of state to news of the mind, Moyers' 20 Years of Listening to America recalls some of the people, places, and ideas Moyers has covered in the past two decades. Among those featured in the 90-minute special, premiering Friday, Oct. 4 at 10 p.m. CST as part of PBS "Showcase Week" are author Maya Angelou and former President Ronald Reagan.



Bayside dedicates building, honors builders

Bayside Church, Hancock County, Gulf Coast Association, dedicated its first building on Sept. 15. Looking over the program are, left to right, Bobby Perry, director of missions; George Holifield, Gulf Coast Baptist Builders; Nathan Barber, pastor, First, Bay St. Louis (sponsoring church), and Robert Cooper, pastor.



Pictured are members of the Gulf Coast Baptist Builders, a group of volunteers from Gulf Coast Association, who construct churches and other buildings both locally and in other states. They were honored at a banquet for their work in constructing the first building for Bayside Church. The plaque, shown at center, designed and signed by the Builders, was presented to Robert Cooper, Bayside pastor.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship announces search for coordinator

ATLANTA — A search process for the first full-time coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been announced by search committee chair James Slatton, pastor of River Road Church, Richmond, Va.

The coordinator will serve as the organization's chief executive and will report to the administrative committee of the coordinating council. Slatton said the officer will "have responsibility for the advocacy of the CBF and its mission and for the management of the CBF office."

The search committee is seeking an individual with extensive experience in Baptist causes in the United States, as well as demonstrated competence and creativity in administration. Proven leadership and communication skills in Baptist life are also required.

Nominations may be submitted to Slatton at River Road Baptist Church, River Road and Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229. Resumes must accompany nominations, and the deadline for applications is Nov. 1.

a clear violation of the separation of church and state.

Following that decision, in 1985 Judge Stevens lifted the stay of injunction imposed on the Missouri case. After an eight-year odyssey, Wamble v. Bell became a closed case.

In April 1987 Midwestern Seminary trustees voted to establish the "G. Hugh Wamble Fund for Religious Liberty Studies" at the institution.

From 1955-58, he taught church history at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A native of Georgia, Wamble was a Marine sergeant and radio operator during World War II, and was present when the island of Iwo Jima was secured by U.S. military forces. He held degrees from Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; Southern Seminary; and the University of Missouri, Columbia. He also studied at Duke University, Durham, N.C.

He was the author of three books and numerous articles.

Wamble is survived by his wife, Beverly of Kansas City; and two daughters, Susan "Beth" Stiver of Louisville, Ky., and Grace Dunwamble of Austin, Texas.

WAMBLE

From page 4

A "self-taught" lawyer, Wamble was perhaps best known among Southern Baptists for his contributions to a U.S. Supreme Court religious liberty decision made in 1985.

His involvement in the case began in 1977, when he filed suit against the U.S. Commissioner of Education to prevent the federal government from using a private contractor to place federally-funded teachers in Missouri parochial schools. The case, Wamble v. Bell, came to trial in 1982, challenging the constitutionality of the administration of Missouri's Title I "bypass" program. Wamble personally argued the case before U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Stevens Jr.

In 1984, Judge Stevens ruled the practice in Missouri did, in fact, violate the constitutional separation of church and state. But Stevens then stayed the injunction pending the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on a similar New York case. In 1985, the nation's highest court ruled on the New York case, finding such parochial aid to be

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Thursday, October 3, 1991

Deadline set for RA Day registration

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will hold its annual RA Day Nov. 2, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Mississippi College Coliseum, Clinton.



Massey

Activities for boys grades 1-12 and their leaders will include: as speaker, Greg Massey, missionary to Argentina; music by Mike Harland, minister of music and associate pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon; and football game between MC and Valdosta.

Cost for the ball game, meal, and insurance is \$7.50 per person. Registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 28. For more information or to register, contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (phone 601-968-3800).



Harland

Revival dates

Holly Grove (Simpson): Oct. 6-11; 7:15 p.m.; Larry Duncan, Rankin Association, evangelist; Pat Prestwood, minister of music; Roger Lee, pastor.

First, New Albany: Oct. 6-9; services, noon and 7 p.m.; Ron Dunn, president, Lifestyle Ministries, Irving, Texas, evangelist; Jamall Badry, Colorado Springs, Colo., music; Tom Sumrall, pastor.

Lynn Ray Road, Petal (Lebanon): youth night, Oct. 5, 6 p.m.; Oct. 6-9; Gary Rivers, Gadsden, Ala., evangelist; Charles Walker, Petal, music; 7 p.m.; Emmette Boone, pastor.

Two-Mile, Morton: Oct. 6-9; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., homecoming, message by former pastor Bobby Thompson; lunch; revival, 1 p.m., message, Kenneth Jones, Ephesus Church; 7 p.m., nightly services; Robert Miles, pastor.

Shiloh (Marion): Oct. 6-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, pastor, Bethlehem Church, Laurel, evangelist; Larry Lott, minister of music at Shiloh, music; Jimmy Jones, pastor.

First (Alcorn): Oct. 6-9; John Sullivan, Florida Baptist Convention, evangelist; Rick Stone, Jacksonville, Fla., music evangelist; services, Sunday, 10:45 and 7 p.m.; noon services, Mon-Wed.; nightly at 7 p.m.; Dennis H. Smith, pastor.

Names in the news

Greg Buchanan, Christian harpist, will perform at East End Church, Columbus, Wed., Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. Buchanan has played the harp since age 9. He spent four years with the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. Steve Jackson is pastor.

First Church, Holly Springs, recently had a going away party for Barry Clark, who is moving to Minnesota. Clark, ordained in First Church in 1990, has been youth director and outreach director for two years.



J. D. Cutrer (right) a member of First Church, Pascagoula, was greeted by Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt during a recent orientation session for new trustees at the Louisville, Ky., school. Cutrer was elected to the seminary's board in June during the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Eddie Ruddick, chairman, Department of Religion, Clarke College, recently received an assignment from the Baptist Sunday School Board, SBC to write material for *The Student*, which is distributed through Baptist Student Union on college campuses. Ruddick's articles on "God's Word for All People" will be "God's Inspired Word," Oct. 6; "God's Powerful Word," Oct. 13; "God's Word for You," Oct. 20; and "God's Word for the Lost," Oct. 27. Other topics will be published in November and December issues. A native of Alabama, Ruddick is a graduate of Auburn University and New Orleans Seminary. At Clarke, he teaches Bible survey courses, serves as advisor to the Student Ministerial Association, and is on the Athletic Committee. He is a member of First Church, Newton.

North Columbia Church, Marion Association, ordained Billy Paul Cooper as a deacon, Sept. 15. Philip Duncan, pastor, preached the ordination sermon. Billy Paul's father, Billy Joe Cooper, deacon of Bunker Hill Church, led in the ordination prayer.

Homecomings

Grays Creek, Hernando (Northwest): Oct. 6; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1 p.m.; church was started on Oct. 1, 1870; Sam Gash, interim pastor.

Southern Hills, Jackson: Oct. 6; 10:30, worship; dinner on the grounds; no night services; Danny Berry, guest speaker; Mike Smith, music.

Amaziah, Hickory Flat (Union): Oct. 6; 10 a.m.; Charles Rodgers, Philadelphia, guest speaker; The Rodgers Family, Atwood, Tenn., and The Barnett Family, Stanton, Tenn., guest singers; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing; Charlie Ransier, pastor.

Hurricane (Attala): Oct. 6; Sunday, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Freddie Tanksley, former pastor, speaker; dinner following morning services; singing in the afternoon featuring Skipper Maxwell; Ricky Summers, pastor.

Midway (Leake): Oct. 6; Jack Nazary, pastor, morning message; noon meal in fellowship hall; singing in afternoon by the Pearl Hill Singers.

COORDINATOR

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Atlanta, Georgia**

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) seeks to call its first Coordinator who will serve as the organization's chief executive. The Coordinator, who will report to the Administrative Committee of the Coordinating Council, will have responsibility for the advocacy of the CBF and its mission and for the management of the CBF office.

The Coordinator should have extensive experience in Baptist causes in the United States, demonstrated competence and creativity in administration, and proven leadership and communication skills in Baptist life.

Resumes must accompany applications, and nominations should be sent to The Rev. Dr. James Slatton, River Road Baptist Church, River Road and Ridge Road, Richmond, VA 23229.

The deadline for receiving resumes is November 1, 1991.

Katherine Melton, DOM's mother, dies

Mrs. Katherine M. Melton, 93, of 1166 Greymont, Jackson, died Sept. 25 at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center of respiratory failure.

Funeral services were held at 12:30 p.m., Sept. 27, from the chapel of Wright and Ferguson Home. Graveside services were held at 2:30 p.m. in the Goodman Cemetery, Goodman.

A native of Goodman, Mrs. Melton was a longtime resident of Memphis, before moving to Jackson. She was a member of First Church, Jackson. She and her husband had been married for 72 years.

Survivors include her husband, Charles H. Melton Sr. of Jackson; daughter, Martha Melton Putnam of Fulton, Ky.; son Charles H. Melton Jr. of Newton, director of missions, Newton Association; nine great-grandchildren; one sister; and one brother.

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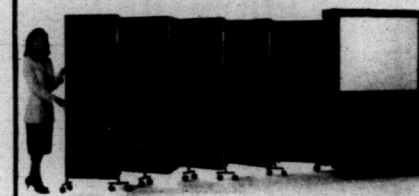
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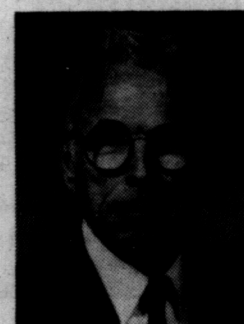


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PMA-130

Just for the Record

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, October 3, 1991



Members of the R. Frank Coy and the Jim Watters Pioneer Chapters of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, were recognized recently for completing their Pioneer Adventure Pathfinder. Phil Turner, youth and missions minister at the church, serves as counselor for both chapters.



Left photo, left to right, are, Justin Chance, Bobby Price, Kyle Brady, Darian Delaughter, and, Todd Lester, not pictured. Right photo, standing, are Scott Young, Bill Stracener, Keith Bowlin, Marc Ginn; seated, Harvey Laird, and Randy Laird, also recognized for completing Trailblazer.



GAs from Summerland Church, Jones County, recently participated in their recognition service. Front row, left to right, are Kerri Anne Hunt, Sarah Elizabeth Evans, Lisa Kaye Holifield, Meagan Sullivan, Jessica Walters, and Allyson Dees; back row, Kaye Hunt, leader.



First Church, Holly Springs, has added a new parking lot. The church has a present membership of 800 which caused the existing parking to be congested. The current church was built in 1923. Through the years two wings and one additional building have been added, and with each one, parking has been expanded. The committee, pictured, left to right, is Mrs. Stanley Mullikin; Roland McAlexander; Melba Shadrach; Thomas Boone; Dewey Pannell; Thad Moore, pastor; Wayne Sorrell; and John Powell.

Staff changes

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, has called Lester Gardner as interim pastor, effective Sept. 9. James Taylor resigned as pastor of Corinth Church on Aug. 22. Tate Cockrell of Laurel was called as minister of youth on Sept. 9. A student at William Carey College, he is majoring in missions and Biblical study.

Belden Church, Lee Association, has called Banks Hardy as associate pastor, effective Oct. 6. His previous place of service was associate pastor in Aberdeen. A native of Columbus, he received his education at Clarke College and New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor at Belden Church for 14 years.

Hernando Church, Northwest Association, has called James L. Spencer as pastor, effective Sept. 4. His previous place of service was Roseland Park Church in Picayune. He received his education at New Orleans Seminary.



Spencer

What can be heavier in wealth than freedom? — Sylvia Ashton-Warner



Conehatta marks 150th year

On Sunday, July 7, Conehatta Church, formerly Pleasant Hill Church, celebrated its sesquicentennial. The church was formed on July 5, 1841, with 20 charter members.

The church's first pastor was Stephen Berry. Lee Powell Murrell was another early pastor of the church. He served 44 years, until 1890.

The first building was erected in 1845. In 1914, the church relocated to its present site, and added a fellowship hall and classrooms around the existing structure in 1981.

At the 150th anniversary celebration, Richard Ethridge presented a plaque of recognition to Wilbur Walters, pastor of Conehatta.

Former pastor A. O. Jenkins of Marshall, Texas, delivered the sermon and Eddie Ruddick of Clarke College led the music.

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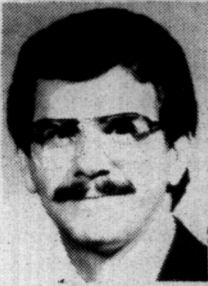
"Come over and help us in Macedonia"

By Kiely D. Young
Acts 16:9-23

This chapter brings us the second missionary journey of Paul. He felt the need to go back and strengthen the churches established on his first missionary venture. After a brief confrontation with Barnabas about taking John Mark, Paul and Barnabas decided to go on separate missions. God would use this human disagreement for his own benefit to further the work of the kingdom. Paul had a great desire to take the gospel message into Asia, but every door was closed, "forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia" (v. 6). But God knew Paul was totally available to go where he would lead.

We need to have such available spirits. We may sing "Wherever He Leads I'll Go," but far too many only give lip service to the hymn. We have strict restrictions as to when and where. Paul didn't.

A God directed call (Acts 16:9-12)
Paul received an urgent call from a man in



Young

UNIFORM

Macedonia to "come over and help us." Verse 10 tells us Paul "immediately sought to go into Macedonia." Paul felt that the need was so urgent he had no time to waste. They followed a course that took them straight as possible to Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia.

We remember the commercial, "When E. F. Hutton speaks, people listen." Paul had such a spirit of communication with God, he knew when God spoke, he must do immediately what God commanded. Some folks ask, "How can I know God is speaking?" The best way is to spend enough time with God in prayer that you know it is God speaking and not selfish desires or Satan's interference.

A Holy Spirit prepared conversion (Acts 16:13-15)

Paul had a practice of going to the synagogue to present the gospel when he went to a new city. Since Philippi had no synagogue, Paul "went to the riverside, supposing that there would be a place of prayer." We know immediately this was a divine appointment, because they sat down and began talking to the women assembled there. A Jewish man would never speak in

public to a woman. But God gave them an open door to present the gospel with hearts prepared to receive his word.

God had also prepared the heart of one specific woman. "Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple, a worshipper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul" (v. 14). She was so excited about her new found faith, she invited Paul and company into her home for their stay in Philippi.

It is a beautiful experience to see God at work as he prepares the hearts of folks to receive his word and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. There is a pastor in west Texas who shared in his testimony that it was on the fifty second visit of folks from the church that he came to accept Christ as his Savior. But God had prepared his heart that cold rainy night and God impressed the pastor and a deacon to try one more time. Amen to prepared hearts and available witnesses.

The inevitable conflict (Acts 16:16-23)

Paul quickly learned a truth that every Christian knows as well. When the work of the Lord begins to prosper, the enemy begins to rage. A slave girl, having a spirit of divination resulting in profiteering for her master, began following Paul saying, "These men are bond-servants of

the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation" (v. 17). After this continued for several days, Paul was annoyed and spoke to the evil spirit possessing her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" (v. 18). This change in the slave girl brought the immediate rebuke of her owners, because she no longer brought them profit. They complained to the chief magistrate, claiming Paul and company were throwing the city into confusion. This resulted in Paul and Silas being beaten and thrown into prison.

It has never been said it is easy to take the right stand for Christ, nor has it been said that a high price would not have to be paid. Paul was aware of the cost of spreading the gospel and standing against the enemy. He was still available for both. Christians today must be ready to share the gospel at every given opportunity. We must also take the offensive stand against evil when necessary. We have the chance to set the moral climate for our communities. Our Supreme Court has recently ruled giving each community the opportunity to establish moral standards. This is done by our daily living and by written laws when and where necessary. If we don't, the enemy Satan will.

Young is pastor, First Church, Greenville.

Appeal for unity in Christ: through the cross

By Randy W. Turner
1 Corinthians 1:1-2:16

We all know the well-worn story of what happens when you tie two cats' tails together and throw them over a clothes line. The result may be union but it is far from unity. Such is true in the local church now as it was in the church at Corinth when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.



Turner

As central truth in this passage Paul's appeal to the Corinthians declares that devotion to Christ and dependence on the Holy Spirit are the source of true unity. Some would argue the possibility of complete unity in a congregation made up of imperfect individuals. The fact is, in Christ, unity is not only possible, it is essential. Someone far wiser than I once said, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, love."

Division has always been a problem among

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God's people and almost every New Testament epistle deals with this topic or mentions it in one way or another. Even the twelve apostles did not always get along with each other.

To live above with saints we love,
will certainly be glory.

To live below with saints we know,
well that's another story.

Paul asked some important questions to get to the heart of this matter. In chapter 1, verses 10-13 he asked, "Is Christ divided?" Have different parts been handed out to different people? The very idea is grotesque and must be rejected. Paul did not preach one Christ, Apollos another, and Peter another. There is but one Savior and one gospel.

How then did the Corinthians create this division? They may have been looking at the gospel from a philosophical point of view or they may have been following the nature of human

tendency which is to follow human leaders. Instead of emphasizing the message of the Word, the Corinthians emphasized the messenger. They got their eyes off the Lord and on the Lord's servants and this led to competition. The "personality cults" in the church today are in direct disobedience to the Word of God.

Paul further asked, "Were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:13-17). "Was Paul crucified for you?" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). Paul approached this problem of division by first of all pointing to the unity of Christ... one Savior, one body. Then he reminded them of their baptism, a picture of their spiritual baptism into Christ's body. Then he takes them to the cross. Crucifixion was a horrible death. It was a shameful death. It was illegal to crucify a Roman citizen. Some stumble at the cross. Some laugh at the cross considering it foolishness. Others believe and experience the power and wisdom of the cross. Our union with Christ and our identity with his cross is the wonderful basis for spiritual unity.

What had happened at Corinth is happening in churches today. Men are mixing philosophy, man's wisdom, with God's revealed message and that always causes confusion and division. The gospel centers in the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). If we are saved at all it is through our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. He was buried in the tomb to put away our sins. He was raised up to give us power over our sins.

Prior to Christ's crucifixion all of history pointed forward to the cross. Following his crucifixion and resurrection all of history points back to the cross. It is that cross that gives us unity, that binds us together in Christ.

In essentials, unity. There is nothing more essential than salvation through the cross of Jesus Christ. In non-essentials, diversity. Such has been the bedrock of Southern Baptist tradition throughout its history. In all things, love... the truest evidence that we are his disciples (John 13:35).

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

God's Word: inspired, practical, in the Spirit

By Don Dobson
2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21,
Matthew 5:17-19

I remember sitting in a seminary classroom one hot summer day several years ago. We were discussing the inspiration of the scriptures. Our professor made a very profound statement that day, and I quote: "To defend the Bible is like trying to fence in the sun with barbed wire; it's just not reasonable." He was right. The Bible has indeed stood the test of time.



Dobson

In today's lesson, we notice several truths concerning God's Word.

I. The Scriptures point to Christ (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

Paul admonished Timothy to continue in what he had learned. Obviously, Paul was talking about the teachings and doctrines of the faith. He recognized the importance of holding fast to the everlasting truth of salvation through Christ Jesus.

I suppose we all are looking for helpful hints on how to be better witnesses. Certainly, there are a multiplicity of books, tapes, and other materials that will assist us in sharing. However, we should never stray from the Word of God that is likened to the two-edged sword.

LIFE AND WORK

II. The Scriptures are inspired in totality (2 Tim. 3:16)

Just how much of the Bible is really the Word of God is a question that is often asked. Well, Paul tells us that the Bible in its entirety is inspired. Does this mean that we can forget about allegories and metaphors? Not at all. An allegorical statement, as well as the use of a well-placed metaphor, can be just as inspired.

We are not called to judge. We are called to teach all the Bible to all the world.

III. The Scriptures are practical (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

There is nothing fluffy or puffy about God's Word. It is a practical guide book for the living of life. Why anyone would want to make something magical and ethereal out of God's Word is unthinkable to me. It is real and it is practical. It is very practical in its application to our problems.

IV. The Scriptures are to be interpreted by the Spirit's guidance (2 Peter 1:20-21)

As we study a text, we need to use all of the resources available to us. Unfortunately, we may neglect the best resource of all, that of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit who led men to write the Scriptures. It is the Spirit who will lead us in the interpretation of the Scriptures. Now to be sure, God gave us brains and the

ability to reason. He expects us to couple this ability with the guidance of the Spirit as we look at Scripture.

V. Jesus is the plumbline for all Scripture (Matt. 5:17)

My brother is a carpenter. As a matter of fact, Mickey is a good carpenter. I worked for him at one time while in college. I remember

that it was very important to him that the walls be plumb. Obviously, he would drop a plumbline to insure the "straightness" of his walls. As we look at the Bible, Christ is the authoritative standard by which all Scripture is interpreted. Scripture in its entirety is fulfilled in Christ.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

Relief funds feed Somalis

SOMALI REFUGEES GET FOOD, GOSPEL IN KENYA: LIBOI, Kenya (BP) — Not many people in Kenya have ever heard of Liboi, and outside of east Africa the arid spot is practically unknown. But tens of thousands of refugees from Somalia know Liboi. It's now their home. They fled their impoverished Muslim country when it collapsed into civil war earlier this year. Somalia borders Kenya. Southern Baptists are making a difference in this place they've never heard about. Southern Baptist hunger relief funds are feeding more than 8,000 Somalis a month. Kenya missionary Clay Coursey of Lubbock, Texas, coordinates the project, working in conjunction with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. "Church planters also offer Bibles to anyone who wants one, and they preach the gospel when they visit the camps," Coursey reported. "In spite of deadly pressure against taking the Bibles (an estimated 97% of the Somali people are Muslim), many Somali men return privately to accept a Bible and at least eight have made private professions of faith."

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Tiny prayer chapel is symbol of First, Glendale's focus

By Shannon T. Simpson

If you want to build a prayer ministry, start at the top and build down. At least, that's what First Church, Glendale, did.



Alice Funderburk, Josephine Triggs

The church near Hattiesburg in Lebanon Association completed a tiny prayer chapel for its centennial, celebrated Aug. 25. The chapel will house the church's intercessory prayer ministry, which is set to be fully in place in mid-October.

The construction of the chapel began with a bell, purchased by a Brotherhood member. It was not a replica, but a reminder of the bell which had hung in the bell tower destroyed by fire in the 1966.

The new bell needed a bell tower in which to hang, so Brotherhood members got together to build one. Since the bell tower also needed an understructure, Brotherhood members decided to meet that need as well as the need for a prayer chapel.

When Brotherhood construction volunteer James Triggs laid down a piece of plywood to estimate the size of a possible chapel, prayer ministry coordinator Alice Funderburk visualized it "like a playhouse."

For almost two years, First, Glendale, had searched for an appropriate "prayer closet," according to Funderburk. As a part of the Bold Mission Prayer Thrust effort, Funderburk wanted to establish a place apart from the mainstream of activity at the church.

Now the prayer chapel dominates the central area of the church's grounds, between its education building and sanctuary.

"Prayer is the central focus of our church," says Pastor Brian Ivey. "I guess the location of the chapel symbolizes that."

Sybil Davis first felt the need to begin an intercessory prayer ministry at First Church. Her vision for the ministry was passed along to Funderburk in the form of a booklet, "A Room That's Like a Mountain," by Don Miller. Davis and Funderburk said they were led further in their efforts by Alice Miller, Lebanon's associational prayer coordinator.

Miller says First, Glendale, is one of nine churches in Lebanon Association to have intercessory prayer ministries in place in some form, and one of only five to have prayer rooms.

She will soon hold a two-hour orientation for prospec-

tive intercessors at Glendale, based on T. W. Hunt's book, *Prayer Life, Walking in Fellowship with God*. The intercessors will be instructed in steps of cleansing and preparation for prayer, how to pray, and issues of confidentiality and responsibility.

It is the aim of First, Glendale, to train intercessors to pray through each day in hour-long periods in the chapel. The chapel will eventually house a desk, phone line, and rosters of needs and volunteers. Because of the confidential nature of many requests, the chapel's door will be locked and access limited only to interceding volunteers. Currently, the little chapel's door is open most of the time.

Funderburk says there is no one enlisted as yet, however. "If it's not their vision, we don't want it to happen," she says of waiting for the right people.

"We're going to let the Lord lead each person to join in this ministry," says Sybil Davis.

For the church that builds things from the top down, waiting does not seem to be a problem.

For more information on how to begin an intercessory prayer ministry, contact Charles and Indy Whitten, statewide prayer coordinators, at the Baptist Building, (601) 968-3800, ext. 3904.



Prayer chapel of First, Glendale.

Where are your sins today?

By Ronald E. Bishop

The goat shall bear all their iniquities upon him to a solitary land; and he shall let the goat go into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:21 RSV).

One of the most memorable times in my pilgrimage occurred on a weekend retreat. As the small group of youth sat around a campfire, the group leader provided pencils and paper and asked us each to write down sins for which we felt guilty. The leader then asked for the folded pieces of paper, then led the group in a period of silent prayer. Each person asked for forgiveness of the sins we had written. As the vocal "amen" was spoken, the leader cast the bits of paper into the fire, their contents known only to God and the writers. Then she asked, "Where are your sins?" The only possible answer was, "They are gone."

Our ancestors in the faith had a more elaborate drama of forgiveness — Yom Kippur, or the day of atonement. The Israelites would look forward to this annual holy day, for it was the day in which their sins would be forgiven. The high priest would choose two goats and a ram for the ritual. He would kill one goat, catching its blood. The other would

be kept alive. The priest then would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle some of the blood of the goat on the mercy seat. Then he would return to the people outside and place his hands upon the head of the live goat. He would confess the sins of the people, placing the iniquity upon the goat. With anxious expectation, God's people would watch as the "scapegoat" was sent away into the wilderness, bearing their sins.

How vivid the picture must have been! Imagine the sheer ecstasy in knowing that one's sins are "gone." But isn't this God's promise to each of his children? Through God's final drama of redemption, every person is qualified to receive God's forgiveness. In the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, our sins can be carried away. Where are your sins today? Do you still have them, or are they gone?

Bishop is pastor, Salem Church, Collins.

Jail doesn't bar David Umfreville from ministry

By Matthew Brady

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — David Umfreville is doing his best to get students at Southwestern Seminary behind bars.

And if he succeeds, the 44-year-old outreach pastor of prisons, jails, and juveniles for First Church of Dallas, believes the students will be as captivated as he is.

Ten years and 10,000 saved souls into his jail ministry, Umfreville is still trying to get the word out — jails and prisons are not only ripe for harvest, they are full of Christians in need of discipleship.

"What happens is, somebody ends up in prison or jail and they're just kind of lost out there in a field or ocean of people," he said.

"Many times nobody knows about it, or the family won't tell anybody because they're embarrassed."

New converts are encouraged to join the Home Mission Board discipleship program. More mature Christian inmates are disciplined through the MasterLife program offered by Texas Baptist Men.

Nearly 130 inmates are being disciplined through IDF, and twice that many have requested the program, Umfreville said.

Umfreville also encourages growing Christians with the 33 Christian libraries he has established in prisons throughout Texas. Listeners of First Baptist's KCBI radio station donated more than 33,000 books, and Umfreville said more keep coming in.

But the books and programs can't keep up with the booming prison industry. With six prisons under construction, Umfreville said Texas soon will have a prison population of 60,000 inmates. As for the jail population, he said over 100,000 inmates will pass through the Dallas County Jail system this year. The numbers are overwhelming, but so is the response to the gospel.

"These men are stripped of all dignity, family, money, friends. They are just stripped of

everything and anything that they've ever known," Umfreville said. "And now, maybe for the first time in their lives, they are ready to turn their hearts and lives to God."

One of Umfreville's goals is to involve more seminary students in prison evangelism. In addition to the IDF program, he has ordered over \$500 worth of books to establish a collection of prison, jail, and juvenile research material at Southwestern. His ultimate goal is to establish a chair of prison evangelism.

"Prison doesn't change anybody," Umfreville said. "Only Jesus Christ can change the heart of an inmate so when he gets out, he will be different from what he went in as."

Brady writes for Southwestern Seminary.

Non-custodial parents should make life easier for children

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Single parents who do not have custody of their children must work doubly hard at making life easier and healthier for them.

"The reason you are here is because you care about your children and want them to be whole and happy," Karen McGuire, group manager of age level editorial work at Woman's Missionary Union, told about 20 single adults attending a seminar on non-custodial parenting.

McGuire, who said she has been both a custodial and non-custodial single parent, warned: "Sometimes we send a message to our children that the other parent is less than lovable. It is important for them to know that even though the marriage didn't work out, the children are loved."

Show respect for the primary provider (custodial parent), especially if he or she remarries, said McGuire. The non-custodial parent should not

let jealousy ruin the relationship between the other parent, the new spouse, and the child.

Encourage good communication, McGuire urged.

"Sometimes this is difficult, but we often have to put aside our feelings," she said. "Learn to recognize the other person as a person of worth and value in God's eyes. Pray for them. You cannot long hate someone you pray for."

"Don't treat your children as guests when they come to visit," she continued. "Allow life to go on as usual. Do laundry, grocery shop, just like it happens when they live with the other parent."

The non-custodial parent should make time to be alone with each child "on a regular basis to help know who they are," McGuire said.

The parent should avoid the temptation to ask what is going on at home where they live, she said. "And never ask your children to convey an impor-

tant message to your former spouse."

McGuire warned non-custodial parents not to burden the children with financial matters. "Children don't need to know all the gory details about your finances. Children are children; they are not your friends."

"Look to the future. Set some goals for your life. Look forward to a positive future with your children," said McGuire. "Forgive and move on."

"It is critical that forgiveness happens in each of our lives. If we do not forgive, our children will never grow up to be whole and healthy people," said McGuire.

More than 5,000 single adults attended simultaneous Labor Day Weekend conferences at Ridgecrest, Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, San Diego, and St. Louis. The conferences were sponsored by the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

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